

CREATING A MORE HUMANE SOCIETY: Making Animal Welfare a Presidential Priority

ANIMALS PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE LIVES OF MOST AMERICANS. Two-thirds of American households have pets, and consumers spend \$38 billion annually on pet products and services. Tens of millions of Americans also appreciate animals through bird watching, wildlife watching at national parks and other public lands, and a wide range of other activities. Nearly 10,000 animal protection organizations operate in the United States, with more than \$2 billion contributed to these organizations each year.



The humane treatment of animals is a universal value—embraced by mainstream voters whether they're Democrats, Republicans, or Independents. Federal and state governments play a vital role in protecting animals from cruel treatment and exploitation. Humane-minded individuals care deeply about the positions their elected officials take on animal protection issues.

Like all other areas of government, the chief executive plays a vital role in animal welfare issues. The president appoints cabinet members who implement and enforce regulations affecting animals, such as through the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Interior, and the president also submits a budget to Congress with enormous implications for animals.



Congress has enacted a number of strong laws to protect animals, including recently enacted measures to crack down on illegal dogfighting and cockfighting, to protect pets in disasters, and to prevent trophy hunters from killing exotic animals and sticking taxpayers with the bill for their safaris. Congress is considering other commonsense and humane proposals aimed at halting horse slaughter, curbing the pet trade in dangerous exotic animals, better regulating puppy mills, ending trophy hunting of rare and imperiled species and Internet hunting, and stopping abuses on factory farms.

Presidential candidates should let voters know what they will do to promote animal welfare if they're elected.

With the power people have over animals, we assume a responsibility for their proper treatment.

For more information call 202-676-2314, or visit our website at hsif.org.

Get Political for Animals



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